GRANGE, FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

HOME MADE PICTURE FRAMES.

BY MRS. JULIAN HAWTHORNE.

Pictures which are like eyes to the face of a wall are often foregone for lack of suitable frames in various styles which may be easily made at home. The passe-partout, which is generally useful, is manufactured as follows; Have a piece of glass the exact size of your picture. Take a piece of tinted drawing paper of similar dimensions, cut in it an oval (or square) through which the picture may be seen, and about half an inch from the edge of this oval draw a second oval, and then follow the line lightly with a sharp knife, so as to cut half-way through the thickness of the paper. This sounds easier than it is; the ovals must be accurately drawn with mathematical instruments, or at least with the aid of two pins connected by a string somewhat longer than the distance between the pins (the foci of the elipse). The pencil is moved round inside the string, thus describing an ellipse or oval. In using the knife particular care must be taken to secure a perfectly even and unwavering line; the appearance of the frame mainly depends upon this.

Now the press inward the rim of drawing paper or card-board within the cut, thus giving the surface an appearance of solidity. It will look well to describe a third concentric oval outside the cut, and paint it with gold paint: but it must be done with absolute evenness and neatness, or it will be much worse than nothing. Having thus completed the face of the frame, take a piece of pasteboard at least one-tenth of an inch thick, and of the same size as the glass, and roughly cut in it an aperture about three quarters of an inch larger all round than through which the picture is seen. Paste the drawing paper on card-board on this, and lay the whole over the picture. Put the glass in its place on the top, and bring it to the frame by strips of leather paper, cut with a straight edge on the side which laps over the glass, so as to form an even rim for the picture, and wide enough to take a good hold on the back of the frame. Cover the back with a sheet of thick brown paper, first taking care to paste on the pasteboard, at the top side of the frame behind, two hooped pieces of tape through which small brass rings are passed to hang the picture by. When the brown paper is pasted over these tapes they will hold very strongly. If the picture is intended to hang slanting forward from the wall, the tapes and rings must be so arranged as to come out a little less than half-way down the length of the frame.

This is the simplest receipe for passepartout frames; there are many ways of adding to their prettiness, but the main rule for success is to be neat and accurate in all the operations, and to be careful not to get anything upside down or wrong side before, and not to be in a hurry, but let the paste or glue dry before proceeding to the next step. By practice and care you may turn out frames as good or better than those in the shops.

Frames may also be made of brown leather cut in shape of ivy leaves, oak leaves, &c. Expensive tools are sold for making leather-work to resemble oak carvings;but for these simple leaves the only tools required are a sharp penknife a piece of smooth board and the handle of a tooth-brush ground down to a point, pnd used for shaping and "veining," the leaves before cutting them out. The leather, which can be bought for a trifle at the saddlers', is called baisl leather. Bind your glass to the picture with strips of brown paper, cut and shape your leaves to resemble nature as closely as possible and glue them round the rim of the glass, lapping them over one another, and letting them curl up ward here and there. Varnish with copal varnish diluted with turpentine. If you have imitatd oak leaves, you may add real oak apples and acorns, varnishing them the same as the leather.

Another kind of frames is made by first strongly gluing the glass to the picture with brown paper strips, etc., and then rolling up some very stout brown paper, pressit out flat, till it is an inch or two inches wide (according as you wish the frame to be). Glue it firmly into shape, and then glue tin-foil over it. When all is dry glue it to the glass, cutting the corners aslant so that they may fit to one another. Finish off with a narrow strip of red or black velvet, glued round the junctions of the glass and frame.

By this time you ought to have used up all your glue, and would perhaps like a gilded frame by way of variety. Take any plain wooden frame, and having put some boiled linseed oil in a saucer,expose it to the air for two or three days, then mix it with some yellow ochre ground in oil, and you will have some gold size,which, however, you might as well have bought ready-made. Now give the frame a coat of white paint, and three days afterward another. When both are quite hardened, rub down smooth with the finest quality of glass-paper. Then you may apply the gold size, and let it "set" for twenty-four hours, and after that is ready for the gold-leaf. The best way to put this on is as follows; Take a piece of tissue paper two inches square, and rub one side of it lightly with wax. Get a straight-edged knife and cut the gold in pieces just the breadth of the frame—say an inch wide. Put the waxed side of the paper on the gold-leaf, lift it up, and lay it on the frame, rub lightly on the paper with the finger and the gold will adhere to the frame. Let each piece lap over the previous one about an eighth of an inch, so that the joining may not show. When the frame is covered put over it with cotton-wool. Set it away for a few hours, then brush off the suberfluous gold, and your week's labor is over.—*Harper's Bazaar.*

POTATO-GROWING.

As an article of daily food for this country, and some other countries, the potato has no rival. Hence, it becomes an important question: What variety is best, all things considered? The kind that yields best and of the best quality, is a desideratum much to be desired.—There are so many circumstances bearing on both points of the question that it is difficult to arrive at correct conclusions. A potato that has proved good this year, may under different circumstances next year prove a failure.

The Early Rose for an early and the Jackson White for a late potato, seem now to be preferred in New England markets. They are both good potatoes, but not one jot better than several other kinds that yield double what either of these varieties do. We have in this country several varieties besides the two mentioned above that I think will prove excellent potatoes. The Peerless, of which I know nothing personally, but have heard it possessed considerable merit in quality and yield; and Breese Prolific undoubtedly has the same good qualities. I experimented with Brook's Seedling last year, and think it equal to the Early Rose in quality, while it will yield twice as many on the same land. I would say to any one not familiar with it, that it resembles the Early Rose, a shade darker, somewhat thicker, a good late potato, ready to dig first of October. There are but few Early Rose raised for the market in this section; they are good enough, but yield sparingly.

It seems to me if we can find a late potato as good in quality as the Early Rose and a much better yielder, it ought to supersede it after it is well-ripened. The Rose might retain its place as an early potato, say for August and September, and Brook's Seedling, or some equally good one, for the remainder of the year.—*J. G. Goodhue in Germantown Telegraph.*

WHIPPING HORSES.

Prof. Wagner, in writing upon this subject, says: "Many think they are doing finely, and are proud of their success in horse-training, by means of severe whipping, or otherwise arousing and stimulating the passions, and then through necessity crushing the will through which the resistance is prompted. No mistake can be greater than this, and there is nothing that so fully exhibits the ability, judgment and skill of the real horseman, as the care displayed in winning instead of repelling the action of the mind. Although it may be necessary to use the whip sometimes, it should always be applied judiciously, and great care should be taken not to arouse the passions or excite the will to obstinacy. The legitimate and proper use of the whip is calculated to operate upon the sense of fear almost entirely. The affectionate and better nature must be appealed to in training a horse as well as in training a child. A reproof given may be intended for the good of the child, but if only the passions are excited, the object is depraving and injurious. This is a vital principle, and can be disregarded in the management of sensitive and courageous horses only at the risk of spoiling them. I have known many horses of a naturally gentle character to be spoiled by whipping once, and one horse that was made vicious by being struch with a whip once while standing in his stall."

POSSIBILITIES OF AN ACRE.

No man knows what these are. We know that two hundred bushels of corn were once grown on one acre, and that five bales of cotton have been made on the same area of soil, but we do not know that the limits of production were reached in either case. We should try to find out not merely how much of any given crop can be produced on an acre of land, but how cheaply it can be grown. A big crop may not, in all cases, be a prodtable one. It may cost as much to make it. The greatest yield with the smallest possible outlay of capital and labor is what we must aim at. As we have said before—and we wish to impress the truth on the reader's mind—our farmers are often poor, not so much because their crops are small—and small they are compared with what they might be—as because it costs too much to make them. We must learn to make larger crops with less labor.—*Rural Carolinean.*

FATTENING POULTRY.

The London Field states that poultry properly fed will acquire all the fatness needed for marketing purposes in a fortnight or three weeks at most. Their diet should be Indian, oat or barley meal, scalded in milk or water, the former is the best, as it will expedite the fattening process. They should be fed early in the morning, at noon, and also in the evening just before going to roost. A plentiful supply of pure fresh water, plenty of gravel, sliced cabbage or turnip tops. If the fowls are required to be very fat, some trimmings of fresh mutton suet may be chopped up and scalded with their other feed, or they may be boiled in milk alone and poured over the meal. This renders the flesh firmer than it otherwise would be. When fit to kill feeding should be stopped for twelve hours or more, that the intestines may become comparatively empty.

TREATMENT OF SHYING HORSES

Shying generally arises from timidity, but sometimes it is united with cunning and induces the animal to assume a fear of some object for the sole purpose of finding an excuse for turning aside. The usual cause of shying is, doubtless, the precence of some object to which the horse has not been accustomed, and if he has defective eyes, which render him short sighted, it will be difficult to convince him of the innocent nature of the novel object. There are endless peculiarities in shying horses, some being dreadfully alarmed by one kind of object, which to others is not at all formidable. The best plan of treatment which can be adopted is to take as little notice as possible of the shying, and to be especially careful not to show any fear of its recurrence when the "alarming" object appears in the distance. When the horse begins to show alarm, but not till then, the driver should speak encouragingly to him, and, if necessary, with a severe tone, which may even be supported by the use of the whip if his onward progress cannot be otherwise maintained.

The principle, which should be carried out is to adopt such measures as will get the horse to pass the object at which he shies, somehow or other, and this should be effected with as little violence as possible, always commending in an encouraging tone as soon as the purpose is gained. Nothing has so great a tendency to keep up the habit as the plan so common among ignorant grooms of chastise the shyer after he has passed the object of his alarm. If he can be pursuaded to go quietly up to it, and examine it with his muzzle, as well as with his eyes, great good will be effected, but this can seldom be done with moving vehicles, and heaps of stones or piles of sand are generally only alarming from defective vision so that each time they assume a new phase to the active imagination of the timid animal, Punishing bits only make a high couraged animal worse, and the use of "over check" rarely, if ever, proves beneficial.—*Wilkes' Spirit.*

Not one farmer in twenty will buy grapes or other fruit, except apples, for the use of himself and family; but grapes are so easily and cheaply grown that no family with a square rod of earth should be without a few grape vines. Grapes can be got in bearing earlier than any other fruit, excepting strawberries. The first duty of a settler on new land is to plant half a dozen grape vines, and after that as many as he can afford. Fresh fruit is necessary to the health of a family, and nothing is more quickly, easily, cheaply grown than grapes.—*Rural New-Yorker.*

Sow your outlying land in grass. Grass pays, in building up the land, in bringing in a handsome return to the farmer in the way of substantial cash. Lay an engine aside, and it will rust out rapidly. Put a man on the shelf, and his death is assured. So with land. It will wear out sooner by lying out than it will by working. Let one but experiment in this matter for a year or two, and he will be agreeably surprised at the result. We have two many washed lands already, and land that is in good grass never washes.

It was President Andrew Jackson who originally uttered the remark now attributed to Attorney-General Pierrepont: "No one man is absolutely needed in the running of a Government." When Jackson was turning out office-holders, there was an old fixture in the Treasury whose friends pleaded for his retention as an absolute necessity, on the ground that he alone understood the complicated business of the office, and that the Treasury would be thrown into confusion by his dismissal, "Turn him out! turn him out!" cried Jackson; "I'll have no man here who is an absoluts necessity in the running of this Government."